



May 17, 2010

IVH Insights

NEWS FROM PERSONNEL SERVICES

by Dennis Mack

SERIP Update –

As of the April 15 deadline, DAS had received 2,117 applications. Approximately 1,300 of those employees are scheduled to retire in the June 11-24, 2010 pay period.

If you have submitted a SERIP application, you have the right to revoke it up to and including the date of your retirement. The annual payment of one-fifth of the retiree's combined years of service incentive and their unused vacation balance will be processed by DAS in the last week of September 2010 through September 2014.



*"A nation reveals itself not only by the men it produces, but also by the men it honors, the men it remembers."
President John F. Kennedy*

this issue

Continuous Improvement P.2

Heinz Hall P.2

Nursing Department P.2

Facilities Management P.3

Resident & Family Services P.3

Technology Department P.3

Calendar of Events P.4

Announcements P.4

Budget Update P.4

Commandant's Corner

On Saturday May 1, I attended the Third District Department of Iowa American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary Spring Conference in Waverly. At the luncheon I received a check of over \$3,000 from the Auxiliary. This money will be used to purchase two portable aspirators, two heat therapy systems pumps and three glider chairs. We are fortunate to have the various Veteran organizations support the IVH through donations and volunteering.

By now you know that Cindy Halstead has been appointed as the Administrator of Nursing. It is a big job and Cindy is to be commended for stepping up to the plate. Cindy brings valuable knowledge and experience to the position.

By June 24th approximately 80 employees will retire under the SERIP program. They represent over 1,500 years of experience and service to the IVH and the State of Iowa that cannot be replaced. They will be missed but they have earned their retirement.

The search for a new Commandant has produced six qualified applicants. One was interviewed last week and the remaining five will be interviewed on Monday, May 17 and Tuesday, May 18. I am confident that a permanent Commandant will be appointed before my last day of June 24.

Dennis Mack

Memorial Day Program Honors Fallen Soldiers

The Annual Memorial Day Program will be held at the Iowa Veterans Home on Monday, May 31st. Keynote Speaker for the program is Col. Steve Warnstadt with the Iowa Army National Guard and a retired State Senator from Sioux City.

The program will commence at 11:00 am in the Malloy LRC with music, invocation, recognition of guests, and the keynote address. Following the retiring of the colors, guests will be invited to march to the IVH cemetery for the decoration of the graves, laying of the Memorial Wreath by Gene Peterson, benediction, and the playing of Taps.

Residents, staff, and the community are invited to attend.





Heinz Hall Update

by Isabell Lewis

Heinz Hall is busy preparing to celebrate Lois Keefer's retirement after 38.5 years of service to the State of Iowa. Her retirement coffee will be Wednesday, May 26 from 1:30 to 3:30 in the Heinz Hall LRC. As our Nursing Unit Coordinator (NUC), Lois has very capably staffed the "nerve center" of Heinz Hall.

While we wish her well in her well-deserved retirement, we are also saddened to see her go. Pat Clatt will be assuming some of the duties and is busy picking Lois's brain while she still has access to her.

IVH Insights is a twice-monthly publication of the Iowa Veterans Home.

Editor

Lisa Purvis—PR/Marketing

To submit news or questions, please email:

ivhinsights@ivh.state.ia.us

Call ext. 4397 or

send to PR/Mktg Dept.

News from Continuous Improvement by Jim Elliott

Recently the Department of Inspections and Appeals (DIA) conducted its annual survey at IVH. Below is an overview of areas that we are working to correct.

Knocking on resident doors and being acknowledged before entering a resident's room unless the resident is not capable of a response. This does not apply in emergency conditions.

The building, grounds, and other buildings shall be maintained in clean, orderly condition and in good repair. Draperies and furniture shall be clean and in good repair. Various items were noted throughout the facility to include small cracks in vinyl chairs, small cracks in formica and floor tiles, marred cove base, vinyl folding wall with adhesive marks.

Residents must be protected against hazards to themselves and others or the environment.

Electrical Requirements - surge protectors must be metal and have only certain items that can be plugged into them.

Personal care items cannot be left unattended.

The facility shall offer bedtime snacks daily. Food is always available but a snack needs to be offered every night.

There are rules that must be followed when preparing and storing food and cooking utensils both in the kitchen and the canteen. There must always be a separation of clean and dirty.

The Fire Marshal also comes each year to survey.

Please do not leave oxygen running when the resident is not in the room.

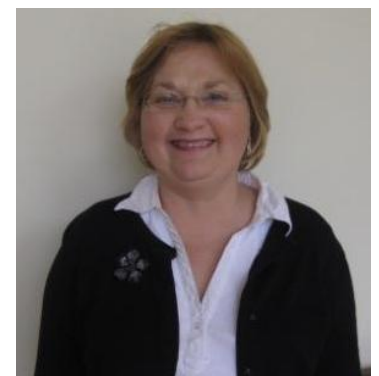
All doors must be able to close and latch, nothing can impede a door closing.

"Without change there is no innovation, creativity, or incentive for improvement. Those who initiate change will have a better opportunity to manage the change that is inevitable."

William Pollard

Nursing Department Update

Cindy Halstead has accepted the position of Administrator of Nursing. Cindy has been serving as the Interim Administrator of Nursing for the past several months providing leadership and stability. There will be many challenges facing us the next few years with moving to new facilities, culture change, and declining admissions to name a few. Cindy's experience and depth of knowledge of IVH will aid her in meeting these challenges.



Please offer Cindy your congratulations and support when you see her.

Facilities Management *by Kathy Shannon*



Construction is continuing at a fast pace at IVH. It doesn't seem like you can travel anywhere on campus without running into some project. The Fox and Ulery buildings are progressing nicely. The drywall is close to complete in the Fox building and painting will begin soon. The siding is being installed on the Fox building and should be close to complete in a couple of weeks. Work is continuing on the tunnel to the Ulery building and the slabs are being poured for the remaining households.

The Dock Expansion Project has started with a bang. The drilling of the augercast piles is complete. The direction of travel on the roadways has changed due to the road closure associated with this project. Please be careful when traveling the campus as road closures may occur with very little notice!

The Elevator Upgrade Project was scheduled to begin in May, but the work has been delayed until June 11, 2010. The Bulk Oxygen Relocation Project is currently out for bid. We should have another area under construction fairly soon.

The tuck pointing of the Maintenance/Dispatch Building Project has begun. While this project will be in close proximity to the Dock project, all effort will be taken to ensure that road blockages will be held to a minimum. The new vending machine alcove in the Malloy basement is progressing nicely. The drywall has been installed and the electrical and mechanical upgrades are complete. The vending machines will move to their new location within the next week or two.



Technology Department *by Rob Buchwald*

With a number of IVH staff taking advantage of the State Early Retirement Incentive Program, IT will be working hard to ensure that retirees' data is being shared with appropriate staff and organized in a manner that is efficient and easily accessible. Please do not wait until the last minute to notify IT of plans to share out folders and files. It takes time to design and deploy a share that enables the information to be viewed or modified while keeping the security intact. Please call #4222 to schedule a time to discuss and plan.

On another note, staff need to be aware that anyone who terminates employment with IVH (including those who retire) will not have access to the online warrant after their last day. They will need to contact personnel for a print out of their warrant.

RESIDENT AND FAMILY SERVICES

by Randy Inhelder

There will be a Primary Election held on June 8, 2010 for the offices of U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative, Governor, Secretary of State, Auditor of State, Treasurer of State, Secretary of Agriculture, Attorney General, State Representative, Board of Supervisors, County Treasurer and County Attorney.

For non-ambulatory residents that wish to vote in this election, they will need to have their Absentee Ballot request form (available from Social Workers or the Resident and Family Services office) turned into their unit Social Worker or the Resident & Family Services Office no later than 3 pm on May 19.

On May 27, absentee ballots will be delivered to those residents who have applied for an absentee ballot, beginning at 1 pm, and assistance to vote will be available.

On June 7, another opportunity for residents to vote will be available when the County sets up a voting station in the Malloy LRC from 10 am – 2 pm. Residents can vote on that day if they wish and they do not have to have previously requested an absentee ballot to vote on June 7.

For any resident that wishes to vote on Election Day itself, June 8, they can go to the polling place at Miller Middle School. If transportation is needed on that day, it will be available.

The IVH does everything possible for its residents to assist them to exercise their right to vote.



IVH Website Calendar

Submit your event information on the IVH website calendar. It's quick and easy and the calendar is available to staff, residents, and the community. Log on to www.iowaveteranshome.org and click on "Calendar" to begin.

Upcoming Events

May is "IVH Appreciation Month"

Day	Date	Time	Event	Location
Tues	5/18	10 am 12 pm	Pie Contest Pie & Parking Auction	Malloy LRC Malloy LRC
Thurs	5/20	1:30-3:30 pm	Ice Cream Social and Music by Deuces Wild	Atha Dining Room
Fri	5/21	2 pm	Patriotic Bingo – American Legion Auxiliary	Atha Dining Room
Mon	5/24	10 am-1 pm 11 am-1 pm 3 pm	Mini-Donuts Ride to the Wall – motorcycle show IVH Tone Chime Choir Performance	Malloy Courtyard Malloy Courtyard Malloy LRC
Wed	5/26	9 am-3 pm 1pm	Oscar's Tractor Show, Funnel Cakes Bert & Matt	Malloy Courtyard Malloy LRC
Thurs	5/27	9:30 am	Patriot Singers	Malloy LRC
Mon	5/31	11 am	IVH Memorial Day Program	Malloy LRC
Wed	6/2	9am-3:30pm	Mental Health First Aid Training	Whitehill
Tues	6/2	9am-3:30pm	Mental Health First Aid Training	Whitehill

Announcements

Thank you to all staff who assisted/ supported the Mini-Olympics last Tuesday. It was a huge success as we had 137 residents and most of those needed an escort to attend. If you assisted one or more residents to the Olympics give yourself a pat on the back. We needed the support of unit staff as well as those who escorted residents to make this activity successful. All the residents greatly enjoyed this event and it would not have been possible without your assistance. Regina, Deana, and Steve

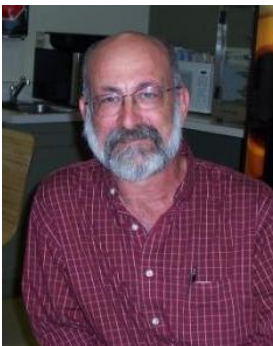
THANK YOU to the departments and individuals who helped make the 36th Annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon and Awards Program a success: ABM, Security, Food & Nutrition Services (Joyce Myers, Kelley Kabrick, Ammata Pierron, Denise Doepp, and Carol Ballo), Val De Volder (Print Shop), Larry Lemker (Rehab Services), Jim Elliott (Performance Improvement), Tedra Henze & Connie Paxton (Resident & Family Services), Shellee Jordebrek, Annie Husak, Tracy Ostrem, Regina West & Cathy Manning (Recreation), Connie Etter, Sherry Sanderson & Vickie Penner (Arts & Crafts), Karla Brannaman, Vicky Grossman, Dorothy Mull & Caryn Paul (Ceramics), Pam Nablo (Gift Shop), Sonia Hayek (Library), Director of Rehab Services Penny Cutler-Bermudez, Chaplain Craig Nelson, Director of Resident & Family Services Randy Inhelder and Commandant John Mathes. Diane Lemker, Volunteer Services

Budget Update *by Greg Wright*

The state appropriation for the Iowa Veterans Home for Fiscal Year 2011 will be \$9,630,846. Once saying that, we are not yet certain how much our overall budget will be reduced by the staff participating in the State Employee Retirement Incentive (SERIP) Program. The Iowa Veterans Home submitted its SERIP plan to the Iowa Department of Administrative Services on April 15, 2010 to refill certain positions and we are waiting for approval from the Iowa Department of Management.

The electronic purchasing project is proceeding with various departments currently trialing the system (maintenance, food service, information technology, safety, print shop). Preliminary feedback from users has been very positive.

Retirements in the Rehab Services Department *by Penny Cutler-Bermudez*



Gary Aldrich is a Maintenance Repairer in a lead worker position in Wheelchair Services. Gary began employment at the Iowa Veterans Home on May 8, 1995. He is married to Jan Drury and has two children. Gary's hobbies include; fishing, hunting, gardening, woodworking, and cooking. It doesn't sound like he will have a hard time staying busy.

The first plan that Gary has for retirement, he says, is finding Janice a job. He is going to miss the people, all the medical lessons he is given from nurses, and the excitement of Wheelchair Clinic. Although Gary is a man of few words, he has a true heart for the residents and goes above and beyond to make residents comfortable in a chair that meets their needs. He has an open door policy in the shop and is always available to lend a helping hand, whether the need is about a wheelchair or something else. He has been a great asset to the Wheelchair Clinic Team. We will miss you, Gary.